

CUTTING DOWN EXPENSES.

ACTION OF THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.
MEETING OF THE PARK COMMISSIONERS—TRYING TO REMOVE MR. VAN VALKENBURGH—MR. GREEN'S OPINION OF HIS WORK—POLICE BOARD ESTIMATES REDUCED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND APPORTIONMENT.

Efforts to reduce the expenses of the city were continued yesterday, and in part were successful. In the Park Department several removals were made. The Commissioners' discussions were less turbulent than usual, and Mr. Green contented himself by scowling often, when, judging from what has happened on former occasions, he might have been expected nearly to explode with wrath; Mr. Lane indulged in some sarcasm at his expense. The Board of Estimate and Appportionment reduced the Police Board estimates \$408,682.50. Some of the Park Commissioners also appeared before this Board and presented conflicting statements about the amount of money required to care for the parks properly in 1881.

PARK BOARD COURTESIES.

LESS COMMON THAN USUAL IN THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS—A FEW REMOVALS MADE.

The proceedings of the Park Commissioners yesterday were comparatively calm. Even Mr. Green was less argumentative than usual, and as he dropped into the President's chair at 9:30 a.m., he said he had no desire to occupy it, but with a little urging he consented to do so. Then he proposed that John W. Manning should act as a general foreman of the Park and that the question of the superintendency should be left open. Mr. Lane thought it very necessary that there should be a Superintendent. A motion by Mr. Green, to make Mr. Manning acting Superintendent was overruled by Mr. Wales by substituting the name of Charles Johnson; the amendment and the original resolution were both lost by a vote. Several names were unsuccessfully proposed, among them that of Patrick Flanagan by Commissioner Conover.

"I move that Commissioner Green be appointed Superintendent until the further pleasure of the Board," said Mr. Lane, his face flushed with a smile. The did not let off the plaudits, and more names were offered. When Commissioner Conover proposed James McGehee, Mr. Wales wanted to know who that person was. Commissioner Lane then indefinitely described Mr. McGehee as a man who went around in Central Park with a paint pot. At this point the effort to choose an acting superintendent was given up as hopeless.

Commissioner Wales embraced the opportunity offered by all in the business to say that the room was cold and to ask why there was no fire in the grate. Mr. Green retorted that he had no doubt that his colleagues would warm on soon. There was a ripple of laughter in the crowded hall that had assembled in the lobby and at the door.

"When these meetings were thrown open," said Mr. Lane, "it was for the purpose of furnishing to the public records of the proceedings. But we had the room and the lobby filled up every day with employees of the department drawing pay. There is Mr. Van Valkenburgh, our \$10,000 clerk who has nothing to do except on one or two days in the week always around. I have no doubt he is in the lobby now, peering through the crack of the door and gazing every time Commissioner Lane is defeated on a motion. He was even at the meeting of the Board of Estimate and Appportionment the other day on the debates."

"I regard Mr. Van Valkenburgh as the only person competent to play the flounce for the Board of Estimate and Appportionment," said Commissioner Green; "and, to come here at my invitation that may be at hand to answer any questions that may arise."

"If the gentleman is so competent," said Commissioner Lane, sarcastically, "why do you not resign and get up another on your own?"

Commissioner Green simply scowled.

Then Commissioner Lane was chairman of the Examining Committee and presented a report. The first recommendation was the removal of Mr. Van Valkenburgh on the ground that his services were no longer need. Mr. Wales stated that it was the opinion of the committee that the three clerks attached to the bureau of which Mr. Van Valkenburgh is the head could do the work at a saving of \$3,000. The committee also recommended that the third division of the Department be abolished, and suggested several removals. A dissent on the part of Mr. Lane to the abolition of the third division was attached to the report. It was decided by Mr. Wales that the report should be referred to the Board of Estimate and Appportionment, and Assistant Foreman McDonald should be discharged. Mr. Wales, however, did not make any recommendations as to the third division. Commissioner Lane, who was not called, voted for the amendment, while Mr. Green, who was present, voted against it. The report was referred to the Board of Estimate and Appportionment.

The next item of the discussion was that Commissioner Conover after all voted for Mr. Lane's motion. Conover, however, did not vote for the removal of the third division, and Assistant Foreman McDonald did not make any recommendations as to the third division. The report was referred to the Board of Estimate and Appportionment.

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